

# Japan 2024

## The Art of Mokuhanga

Dianne Drayse-Alonso  
International Mokuhanga Conference  
April 1 - 9, 2024



With Laura Foster, at Kaminarimon,  
Sensoji Temple, Tokyo



- **Thank you to the Ogdensburg City School District for supporting this outstanding learning opportunity.**

This slideshow highlights how I:

- Shared the experience of Japan with friend and colleague Laura Foster, former director of the Frederic Remington Art Museum.
- Reconnected with two former OFA exchange students living in Japan, Saya and Miho.
- Connected with an international group of mokuhanga artists who generously shared their love of woodblock printmaking and their technical prowess.
- Reconnected with the directors of MI-LAB, Tokyo, who organized this conference.
- Observed firsthand the work of traditional Japanese artisans—mokuhanga carvers and printmakers, papermakers, cabinetmakers, knifemakers.
- Relished in the food and culture of three very different cities in central Japan—Tokyo, Echizen and Nara.
- Purchased handmade washi paper, sumi ink and brushes for the Art Department.

- Curricular Connections - Areas of expansion for my art classes:

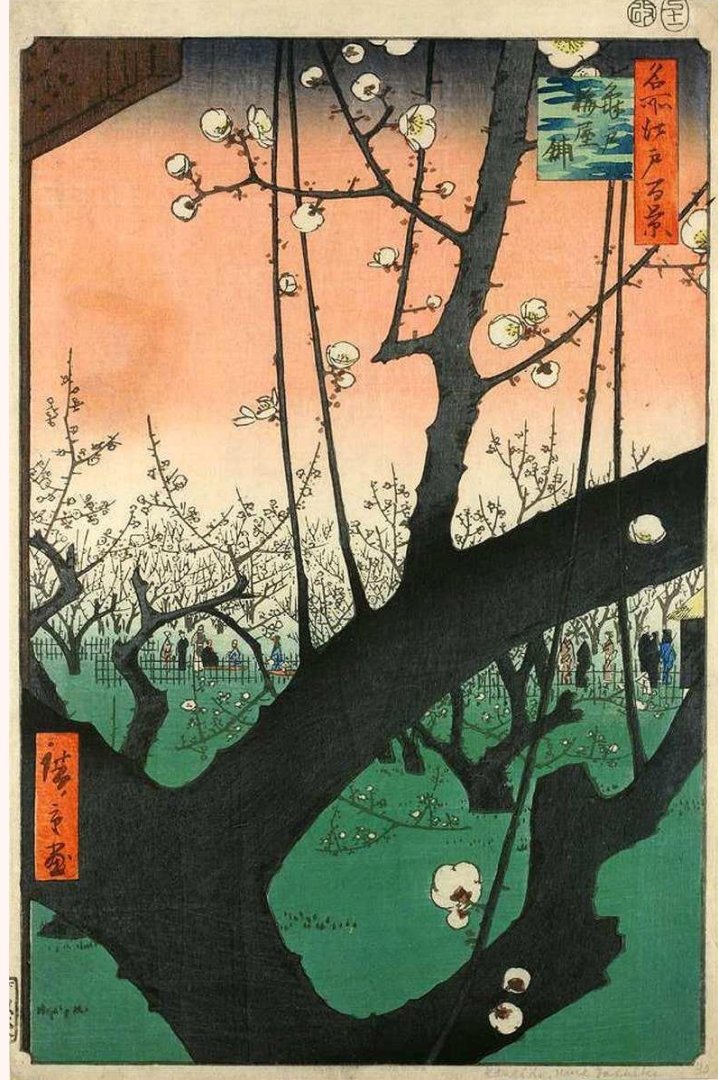
- All aspects of Mokuhanga Printmaking - planning, transfer, carving, printing - skills transferable to all types of printmaking, including linocut, woodcut, intaglio, and silkscreen.
- Papermaking
- Bookmaking
- Japanese culture; East-West connections and exchange, historically and now.



# Mukuhanga = Japanese Woodblock Printmaking

“Moku” = wood  
“hanga” = print

Hiroshige  
100 Famous Views of Edo  
Circa 1856



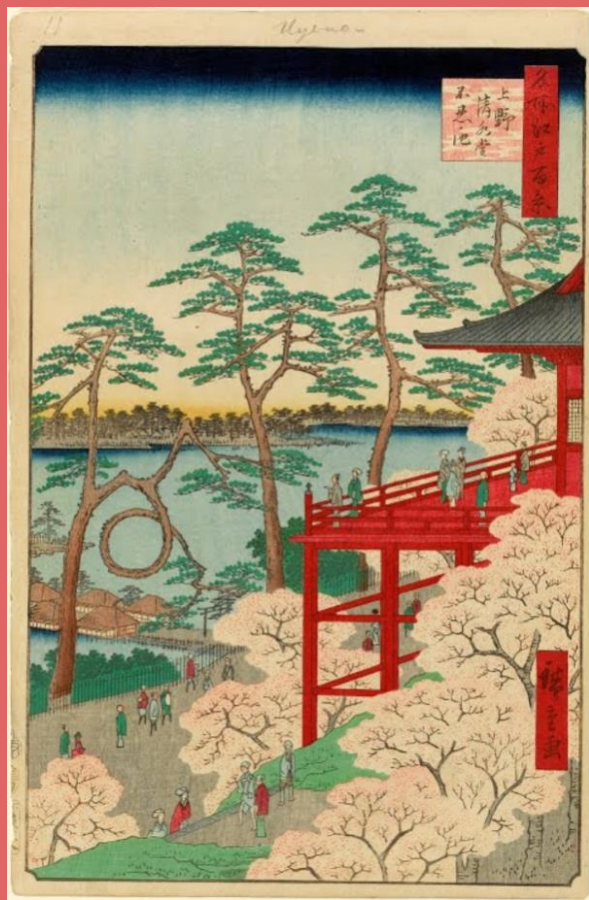


# Hiroshige's 100 Famous Views of Edo

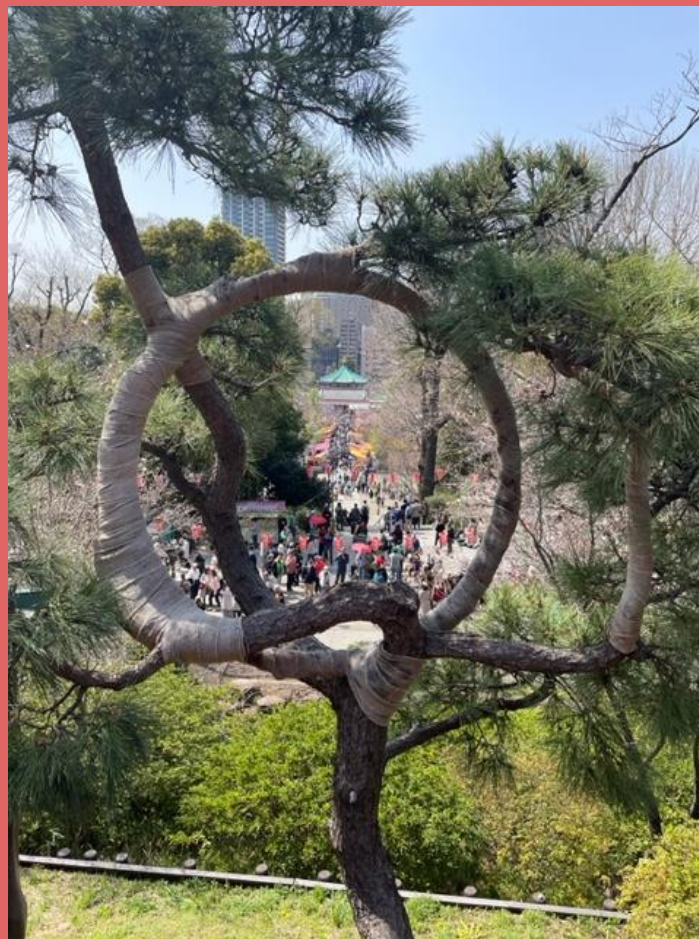
Circa 1856

Brooklyn Museum  
Spring 2000





Utagawa Hiroshige. *Kiyomizu Hall and Shinobazu Pond at Ueno* (*Ueno Kiyomizudō no ike*), no. 11 from *100 Famous Views of Edo*, 4th month of 1856. Woodblock print. Brooklyn Museum;



Kiyomizu Hall and Shinobazu Pond at Ueno today (April 2, 2024).

# MI-Lab Mokuhanga Workshop Tokyo February 2017

Learning the basics of mokuhanga printmaking

## Mokuhanga materials



Watercolor and Gouache pigments



Japanese Wood Carving tools



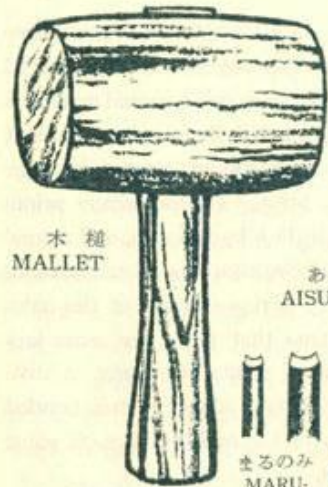


The carving process



[CARVING TOOLS]

彫小刀  
KNIFE



木槌  
MALLET



けびき  
KEBIKI KNIFE



あひすき  
AISUKI KNIVES



まるのみ  
MARU-  
NOMI  
KNIVES



彫師  
CARVER

[PRINTING TOOLS]



バレン  
BAREN



はこび  
HAKOBI BRUSH

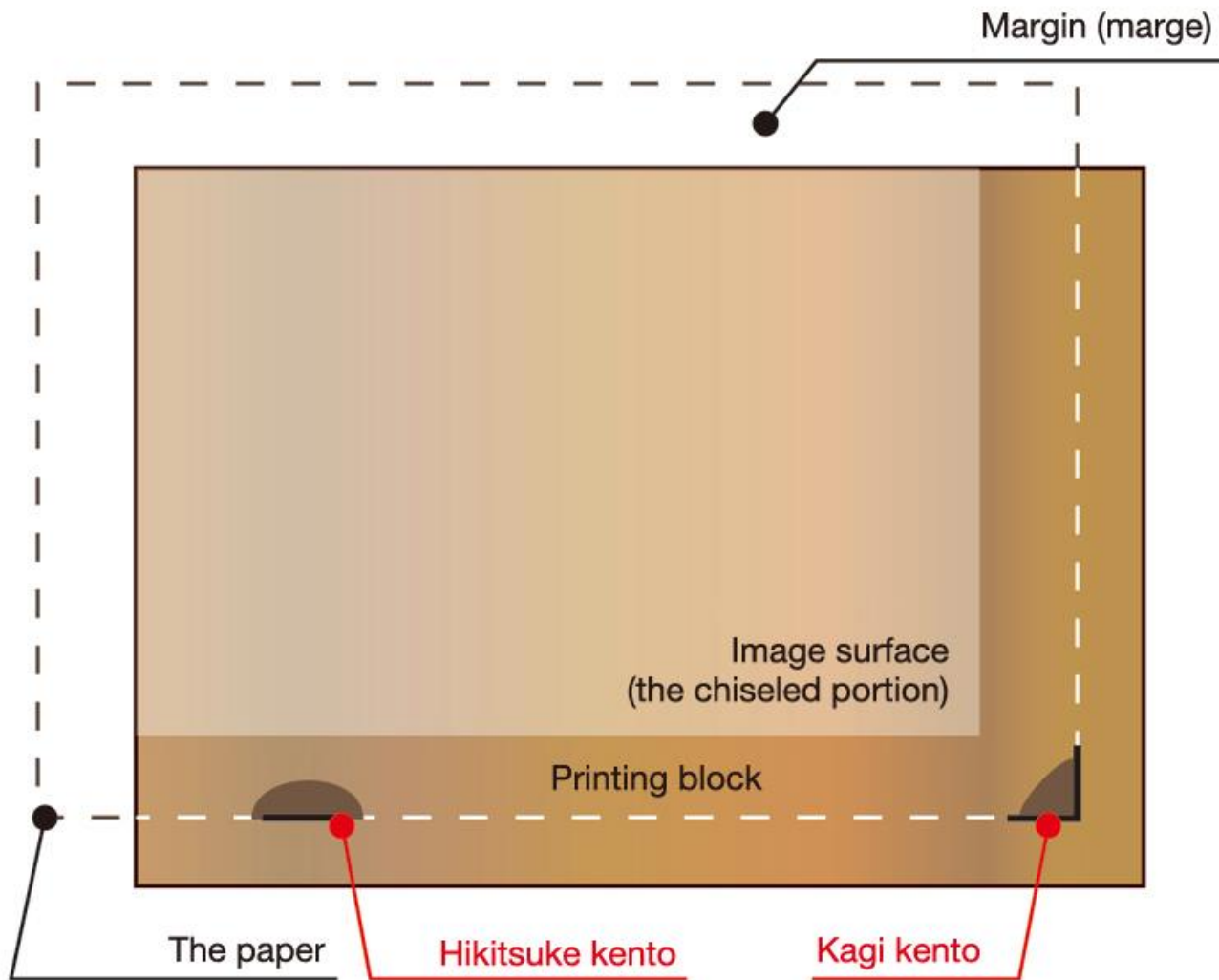


摺師  
PRINTER



## Maru Bake

Rather than rolling ink on the blocks, mokuhanga artists brush ink on the block surface using the maru bake brush before each transfer of color to paper.

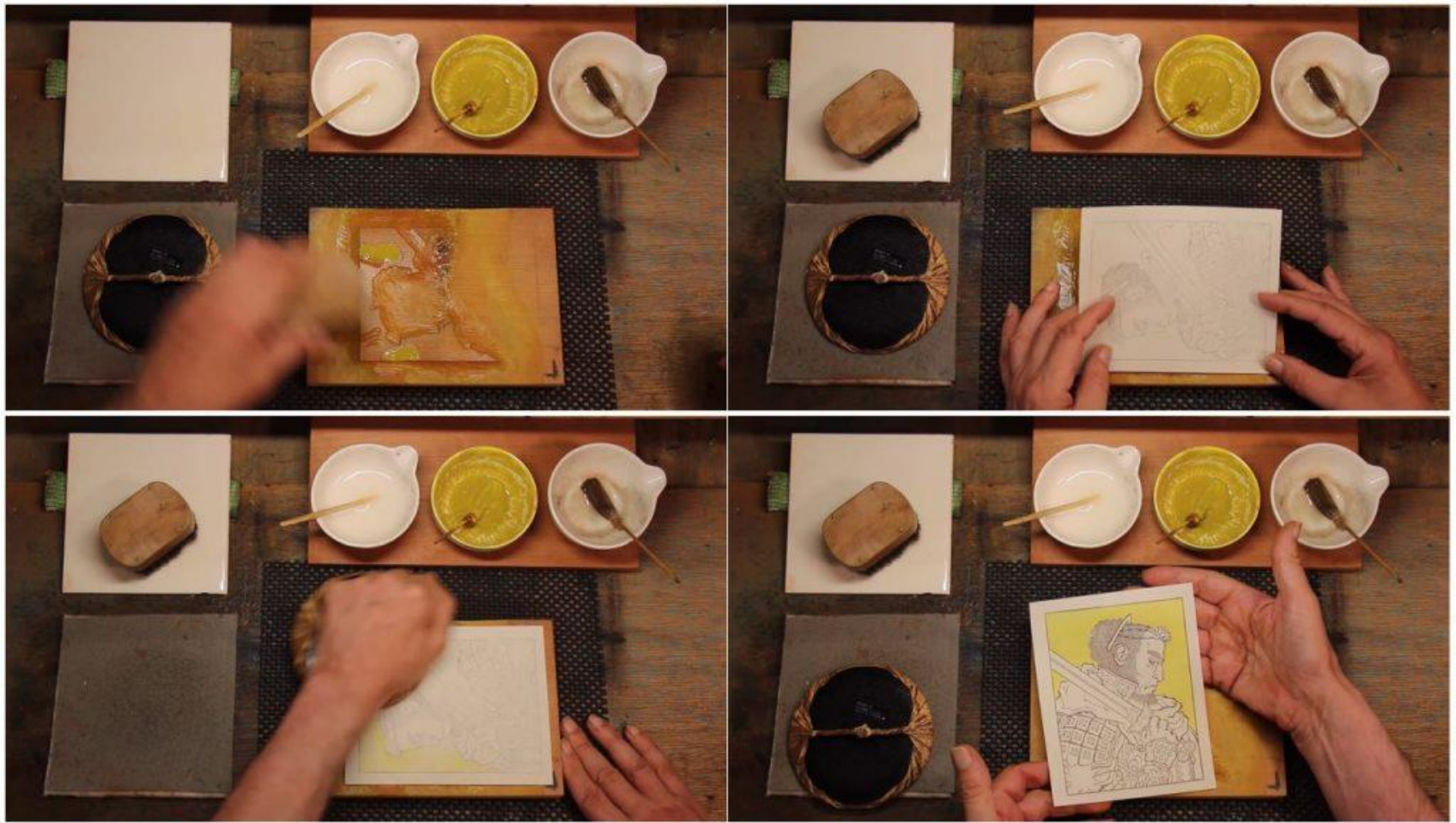


The Kento method is specific to Japanese printmaking, allowing for perfect alignment of each color block.



Separate woodblocks were carved for each color of the print seen at the bottom right.





Rice paste, pigment and water are balanced on the raised block surface then brushed out evenly before paper is placed on top, aligned to the kento marks. Pressure is applied to the back using a barren.

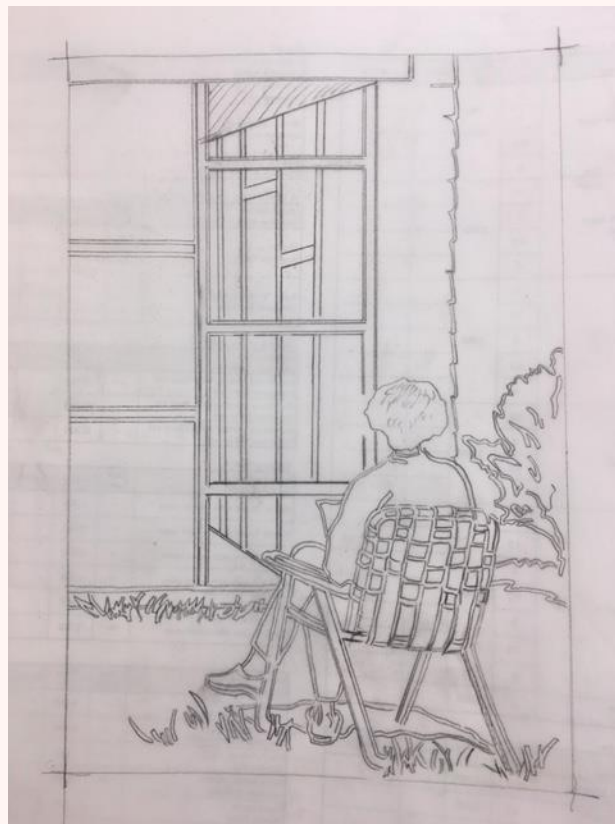




With my Sensei, the  
late Tetsuo  
Soyama-san at MI-  
LAB in 2017.



drawing



tracing

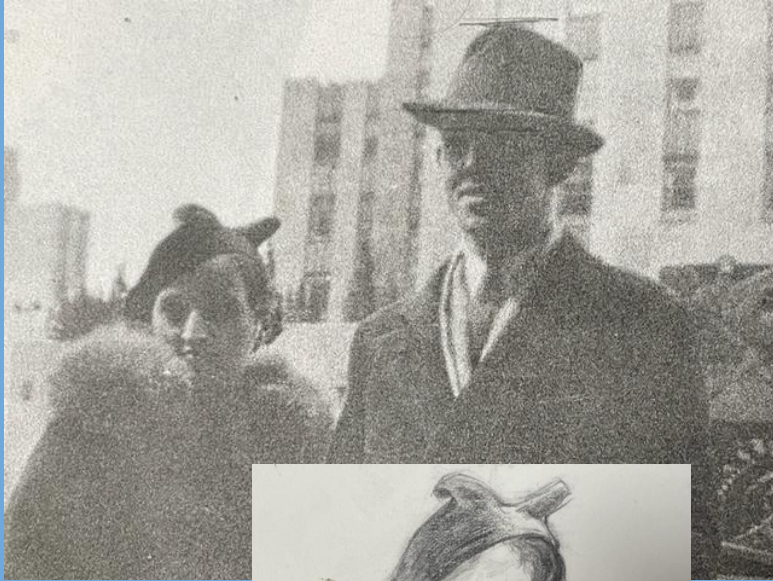


print

First woodblock created at MI-LAB in 2017.



My Grandparents, Mary and Howard Patterson,  
at Rockefeller Center in NYC, 1937.



Initial drawing.



*Mary at the Rock*, 4-color woodblock print accepted to the 2024 International Mokuhanga Conference held in Echizen, Japan, home of Washi paper making.



## Region of travel



★ Echizen, Japan  
Mokuhanga Conference Site



# Tokyo-Echizen-Nara

April 2024



**Sensojii Temple, Asakusa, Tokyo**





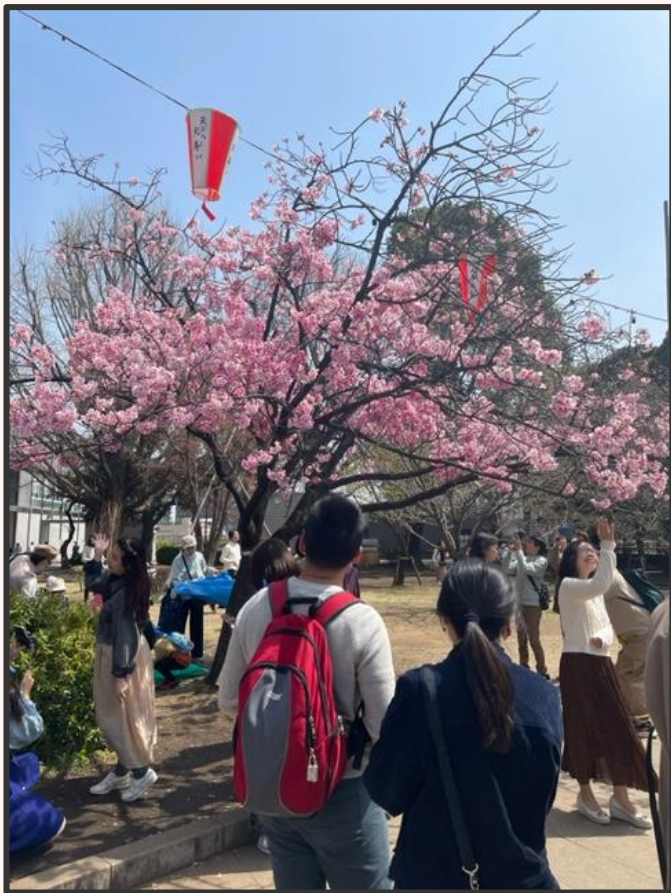
Grounds in Asakusa neighborhood of Tokyo  
surrounding Sensojii Temple





David Bull's Mokuhankan  
shop in Asakusa.





**Sakura Festival, Ueno Park**



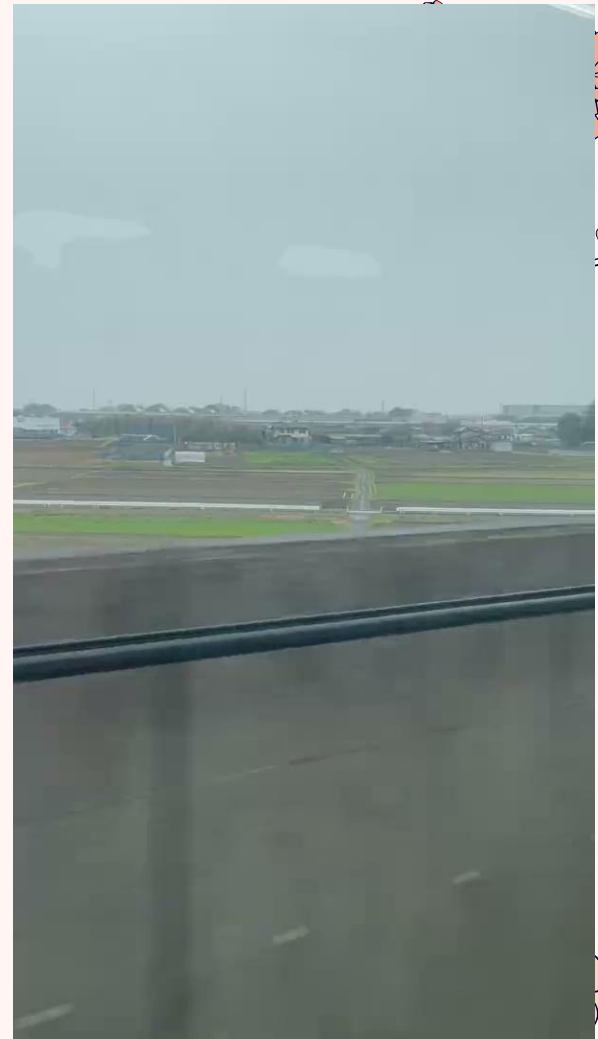
Dinner with Sayaka Yamato Kobayashi,  
OFA exchange student 2008-2009





# The Hokuriku Shinkansen

## *Bullet Train from Tokyo to Echizen*



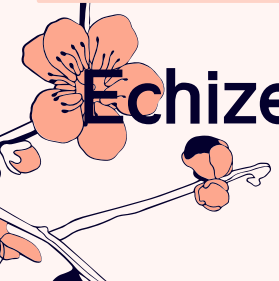


# Nagano



As seen from the Bullet Train.  
Site of the 1998 Winter Olympics.





Echizen, Fukui Prefecture



# Imadate Arts Center

## Conference Site in Echizen

Visit Conference website [HERE](#)



# Contemporary Mokuhanga



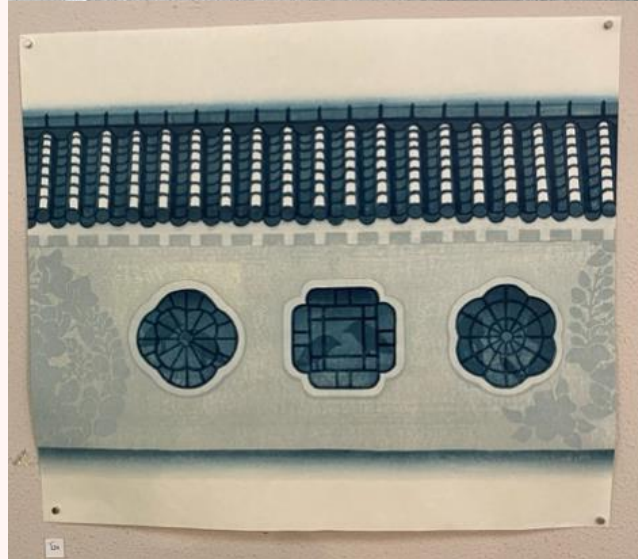
Tribute to Ralph Kiggell,  
Mokuhanga artist and long-  
time conference organizer

# Contemporary Mokuhanga





# Contemporary Mokuhanga





# Contemporary Mokuhanga



- 60 **Amanda Danford** / New Beginnings / Mokuhanga / Awagami Bamboo Select  
61 **Mike Lyon** / Madz / Mokuhanga / Iwano washi  
62 **Nel Pak** / Engelen (Angels) / Mokuhanga  
63 **Roslyn Kean** / Midari-Disorder / Mokuhanga / Hand-made kozo washi  
64 **Karen Helga Maurstig** / Suiseki, stonerecration III / Mokuhanga / Kozoshi white  
65 **Dianne Drayse-Alonso** / Mary at The Rock / Mokuhanga / Panshion  
66 **Soetkin Everaert** / Donnax Vittatus / Mokuhanga / Awagami Bamboo Select  
67 **Natasha Norman** / What Joy to Come Falling / Mokuhanga / Echizen Hanga Hankusa

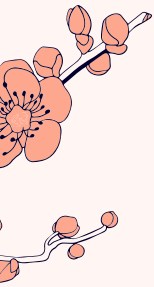




**Presenting Mr. Sato-san,  
director of MI-LAB\* and  
the Conference, with a  
gift from the North  
Country.**

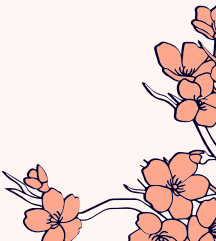
\*MI-LAB = Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory

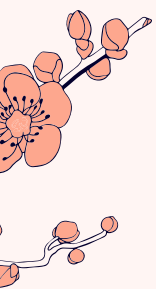




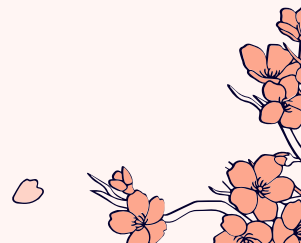
## Open Portfolio Day

Attendees were invited to show their body of work. This was a great sharing and learning experience.

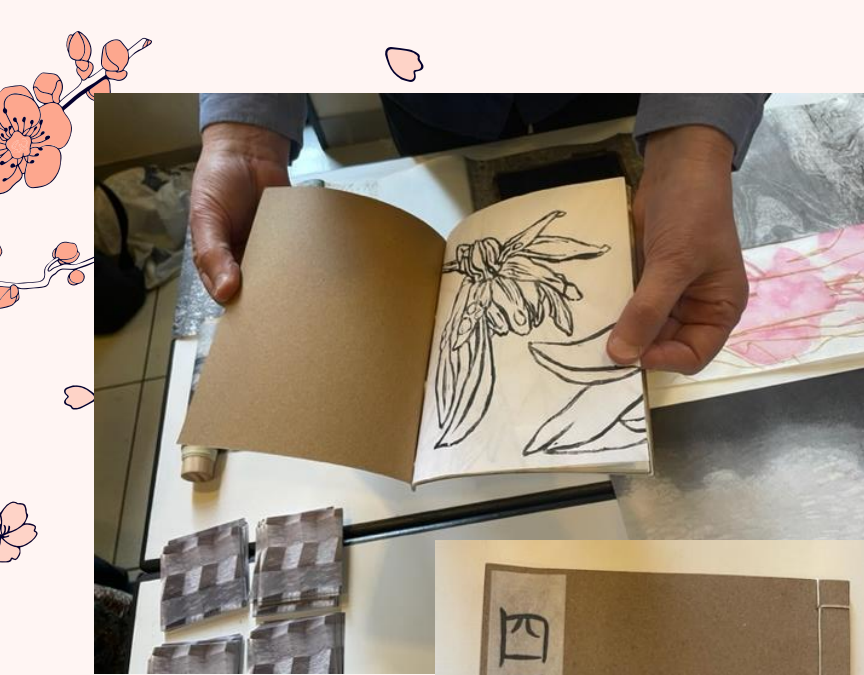




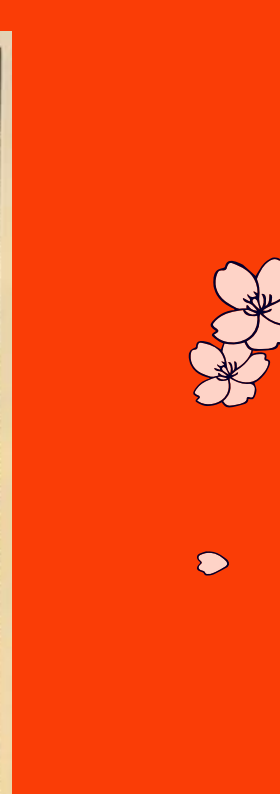
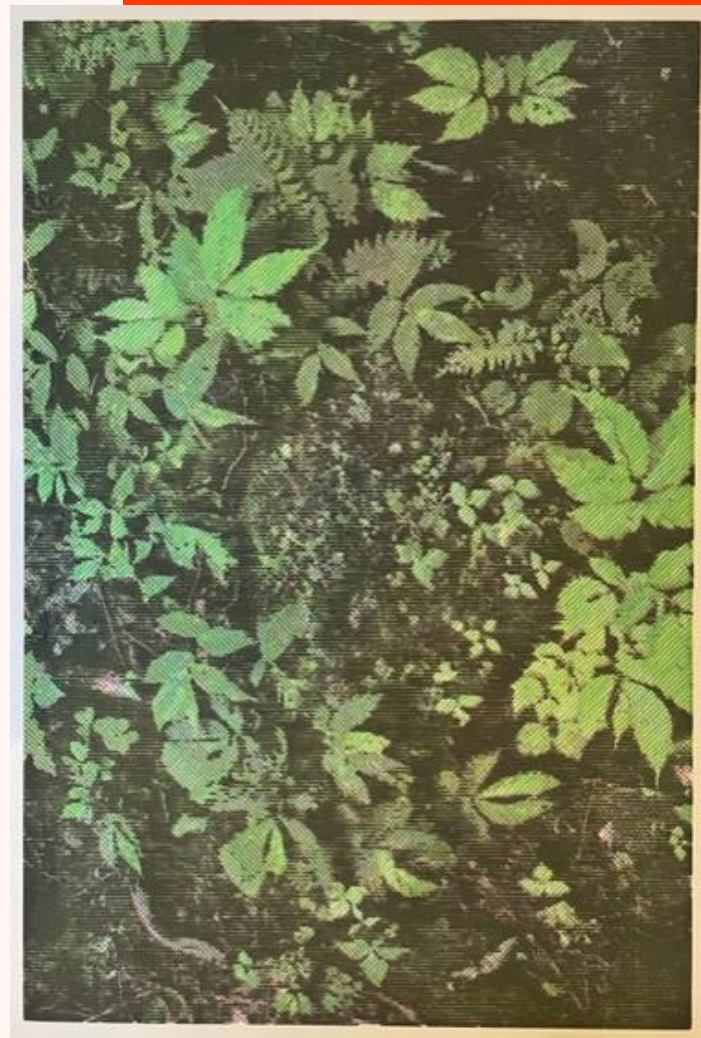
## Portfolio Exchange







**Japanese Stab  
Binding**





# **Echizen Washi Village**

## Home of Washi Papermaking

*First Studio*







Washi paper is made with the bark of Kozo (mulberry bark) and gampi root.

# Washi Paper making





# Washi Paper making





# Echizen Washi Village - papermaking









Scenes from Washi Village, home to 47 washi papermaking studios.







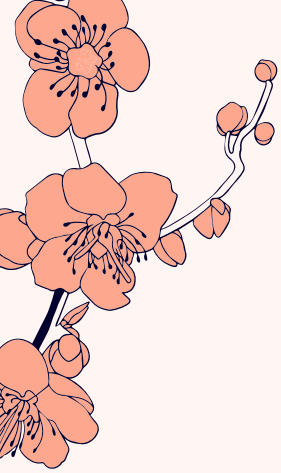


70 - 80% of all  
papermakers  
are women.





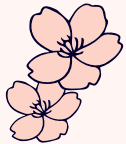




## Okamoto Otaki Shrine

Dedicated to the  
Goddess of  
Papermaking

[Learn more here](#)



- "Kawakami Gozen", papermaking goddess.
- 1,500 year old legend.
- She appeared in the Okamoto River and introduced paper-making techniques to the Goka district.
- May 3 - 5 Papermaking Festival



Okomoto-Otaki Shrine









Tour group at Paper Goddess Shrine

# Macau Mokuhanga group exhibit





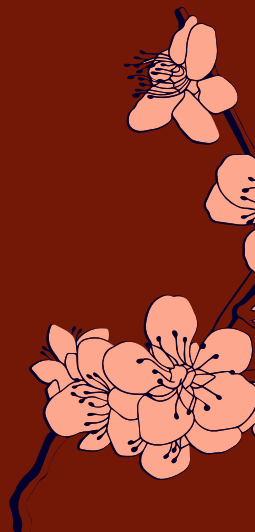
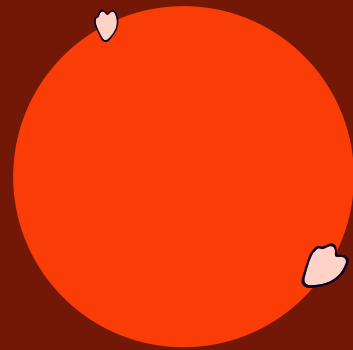
# Macau Mokuhanga group exhibit



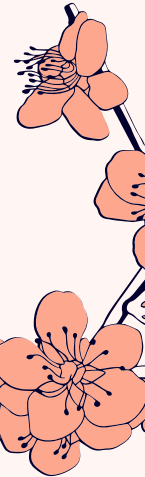
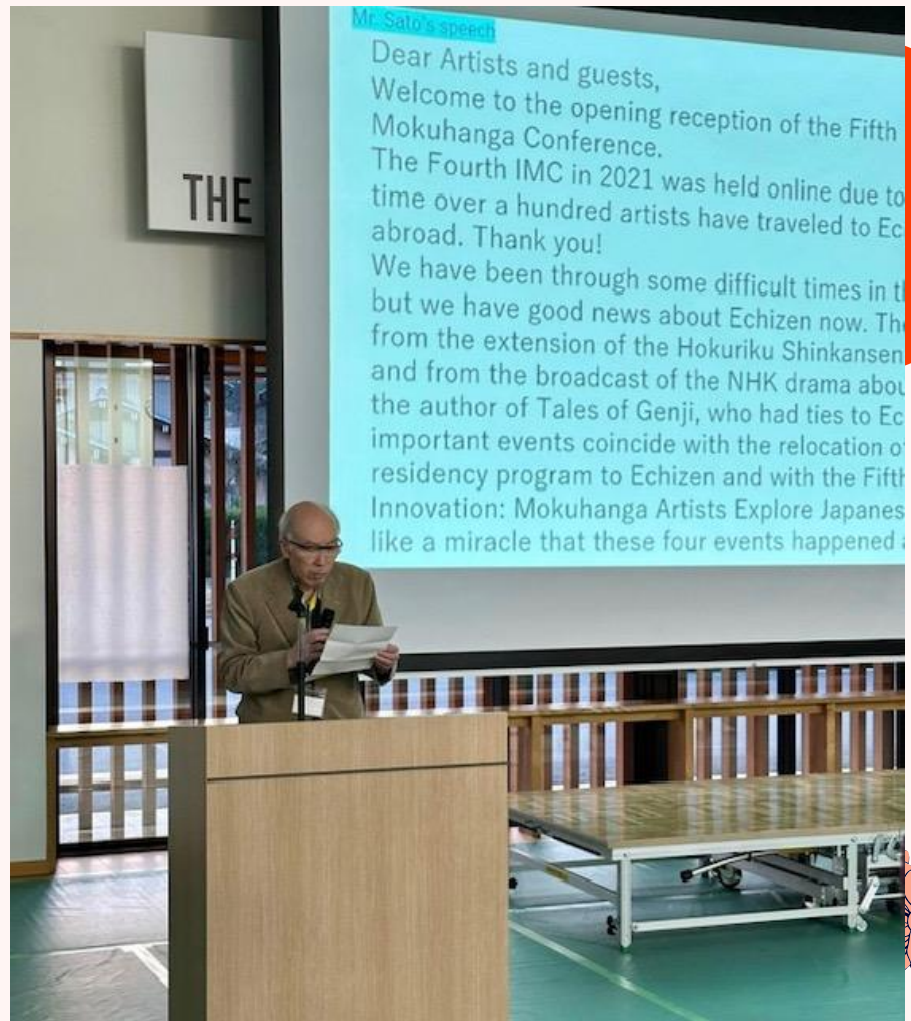
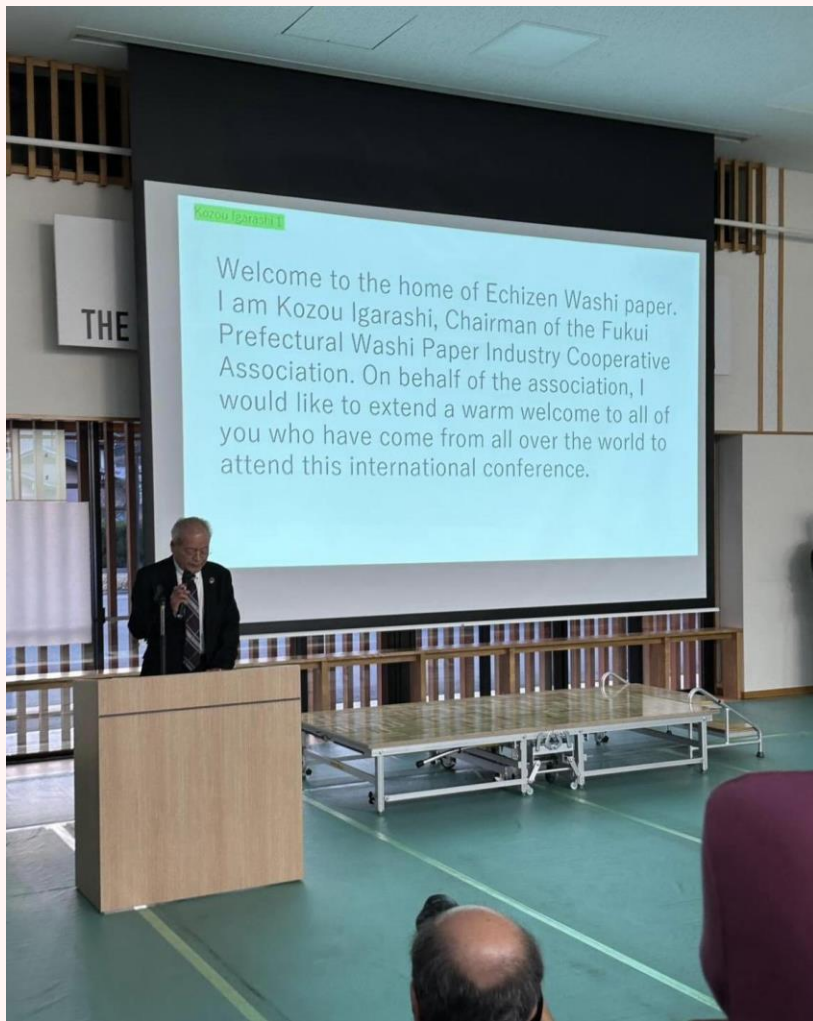


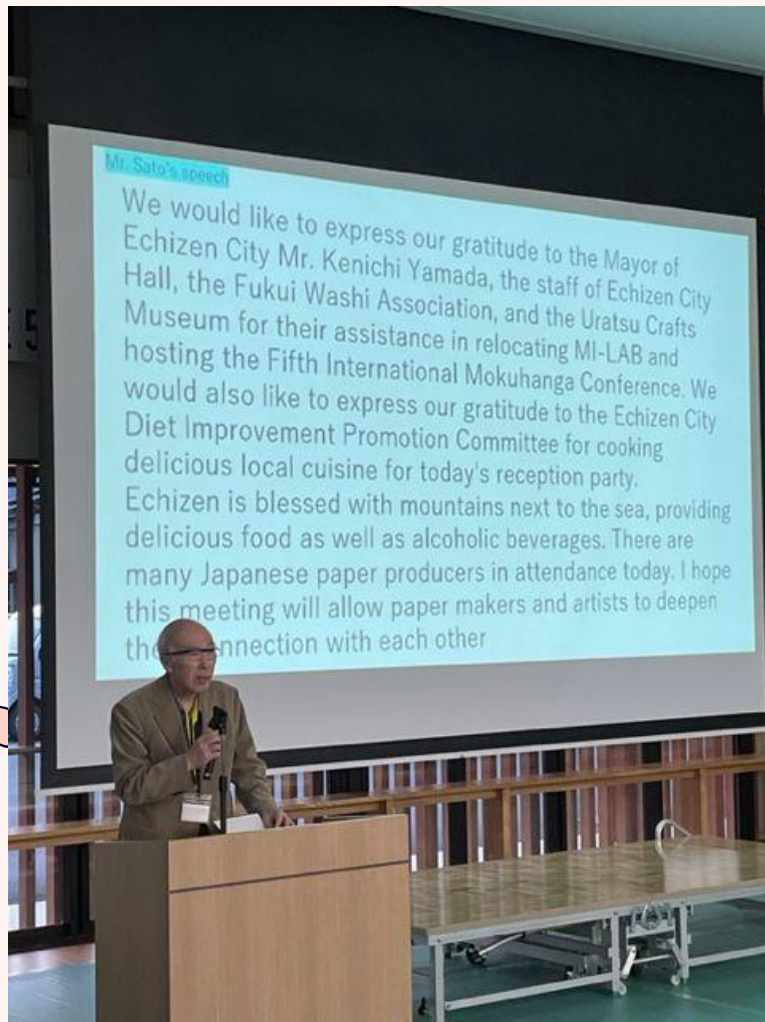
# Mokuhanga Conference

## Opening Reception













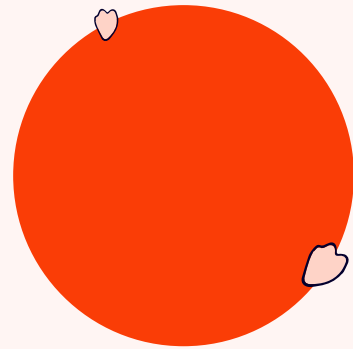
# Mokuhanga Printing Demo

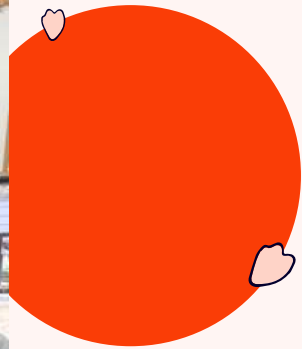






Time to buy  
some paper!





Rival papermakers  
preparing my  
paper roll.







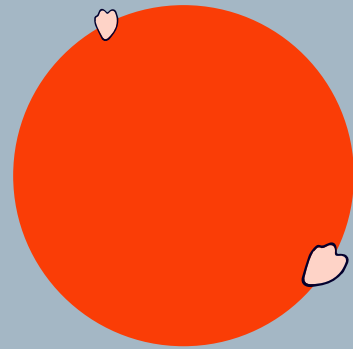
# Echizen City





# Takefu Knife Village

## Echizen







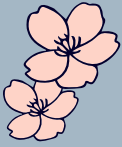
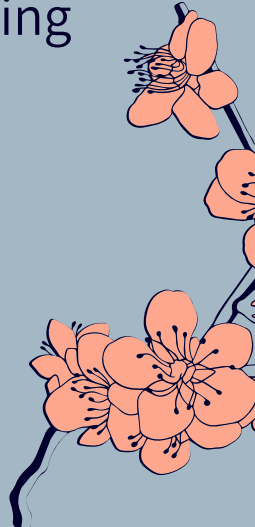
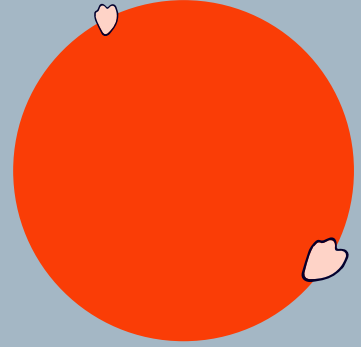
**RYUSEN KNIFE FACTORY**

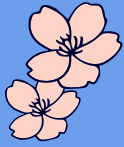






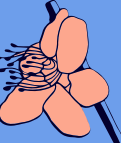
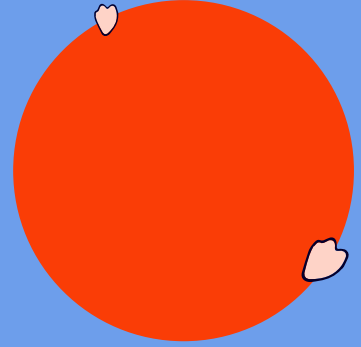
Knife Sharpening





# Echizen Tansu

Traditional Japanese Chestmaking

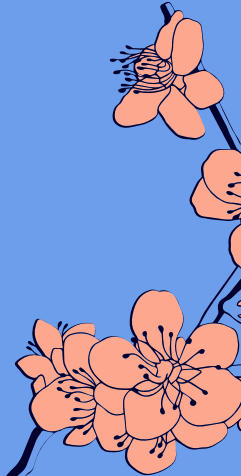
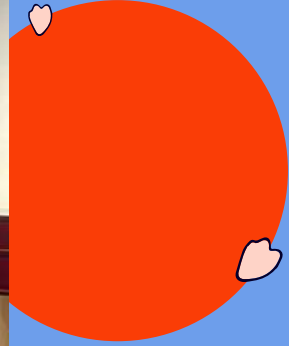








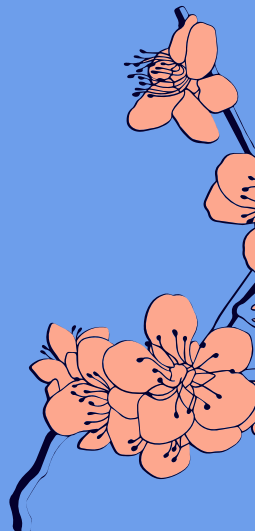
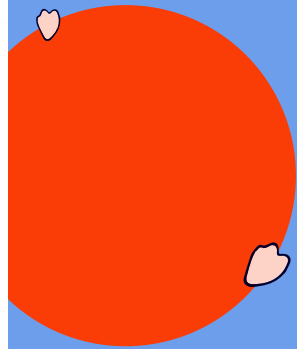
Chests with secret compartments, originally used as restaurant cash registers, are still popular for personal use in Japan today.







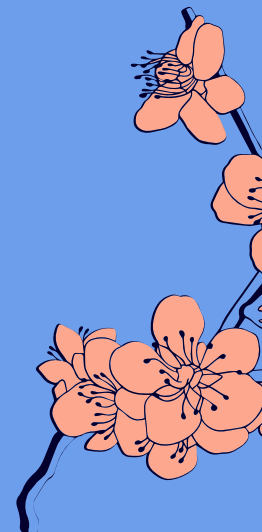
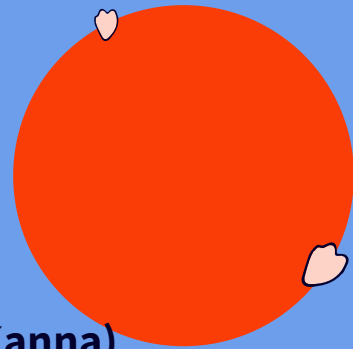
Japanese joinery demonstration



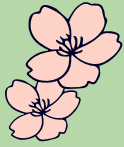


## Japanese hand plane (Kanna) demonstration

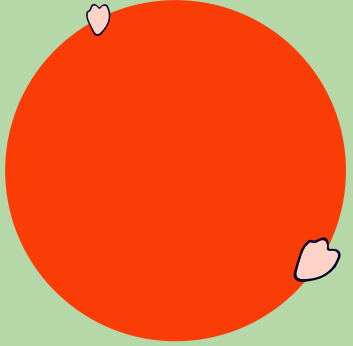
**This tool is pulled toward the  
user rather than pushed away  
as in the west.**

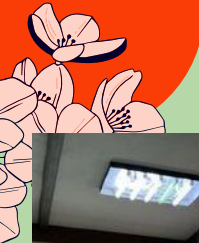






Papermaking Day  
at Papyrus Studio  
Echizen











...and Sakura







# Sea of Japan (West coast)







# Nara sites



Main Hall of Kofuku-ji Temple; est. 669; Rebuilt in 2018





# The deer at Nara Park







# Buku-undo Sumi Factory





# Kneading Sumi Ink





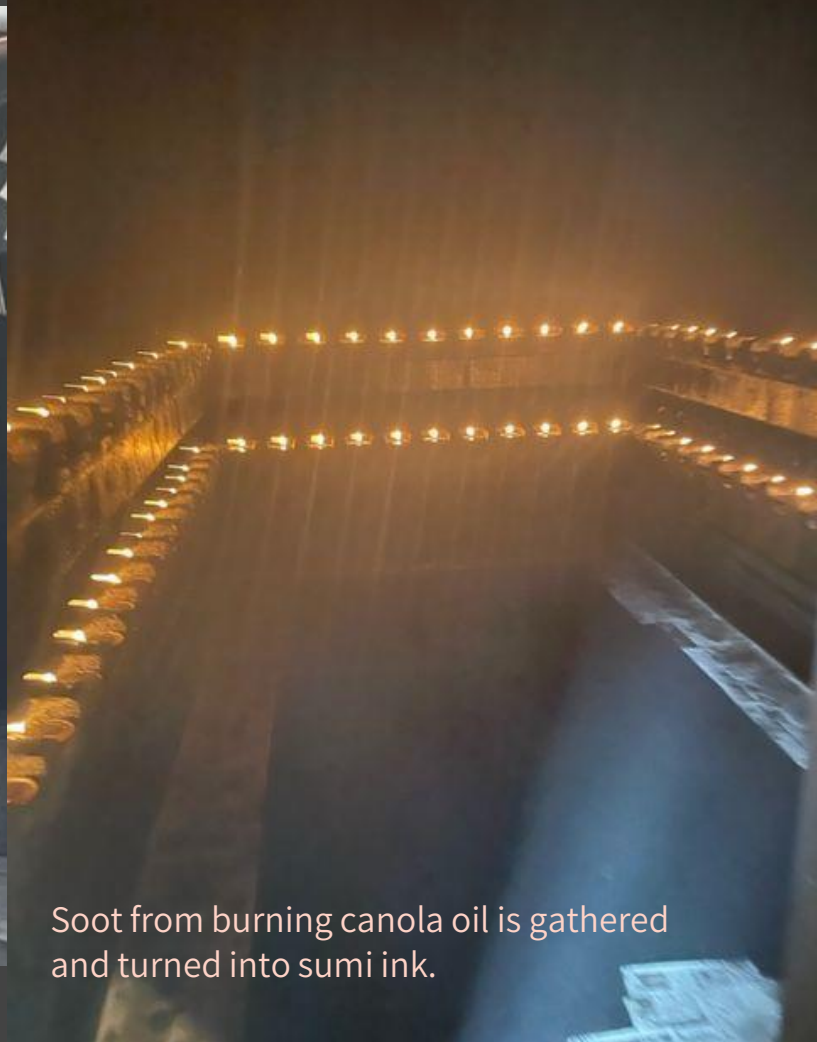
# Boku-undo Factory Store



# KOBAIEN SUMI FACTORY







Soot from burning canola oil is gathered and turned into sumi ink.







Sumi ink sticks hang to dry and age.  
Some sticks have aged for up to 50  
years!





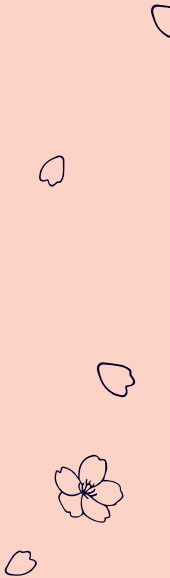
200 year old ash has been used over and over to help dry out sumi sticks stored in boxes.







# FOOD!






Onigiri



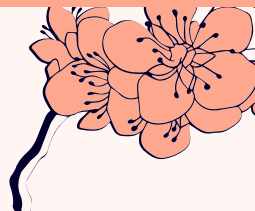


Traditional  
Japanese breakfast



# Traditional Japanese Breakfast, Ichiju-sansai

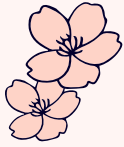
“One soup,  
three dishes”







**Cabbage Pancakes**  
**“Okonomiyaki”**



## Sampuru

The Japanese Art  
of FAKE FOOD







Traditional multi-course Japanese meal  
(Kaiseki) with Sayaka Yamato  
Kobayashi, OFA exchange student  
2007-2008.





Potato salad

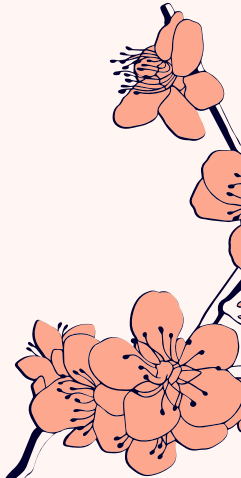
Raw baby squid

Steamed spinach

Tempura potato

Pickled daikon

**Kaiseki**





越前市民が熱愛する三大グルメがセットに。

## ひ三つの ごちそうセット

# 越前市三大グルメ

懐かしく旨い大衆の味  
地元の湧き水を使うそば、  
特製ソースがかかるボルガライスは、  
老舗大衆食堂の王道の味わい。



コンビセット + 小鉢

越前おろしそば、ボルガライス、  
小鉢のセット

1,400円 (税込)

ひっぺーうまじゃんやせー。  
いっぺん食べておののー。  
昭和を思い出すよ。



高木 謙二



## 越前市に来たら 地元の人が愛してやまない味! 三大ご当地グルメ



-越前おろしそば-

そばに大根おろしを添えた福井県民のソート。大根おろしの辛みとダシ、香り高いそばの味は絶妙。



-ボルガライス-

地元で30年以上前から親しまれている、オムライスにカツがのったガッツリ系メニュー



-たけふ駅前中華そば-

そば店が多いこの地の「ダシ文化」をベースにした、昔ながらのシンプルな味わい

当店で提供しているセットメニューはこちら

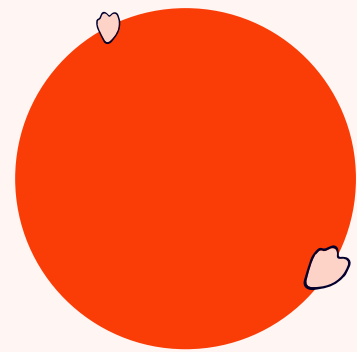


※中華そばのセット提供はしていません

ひ三つのごちそうセットとは?

越前市に来たら、必ず味わってほしい「越前そば」「たけふ駅前中華そば」「ボルガライス」。「ひ三つのごちそうセット」は地元の人が愛してやまない三大ご当地グルメが一度に楽しめるセットメニューです。

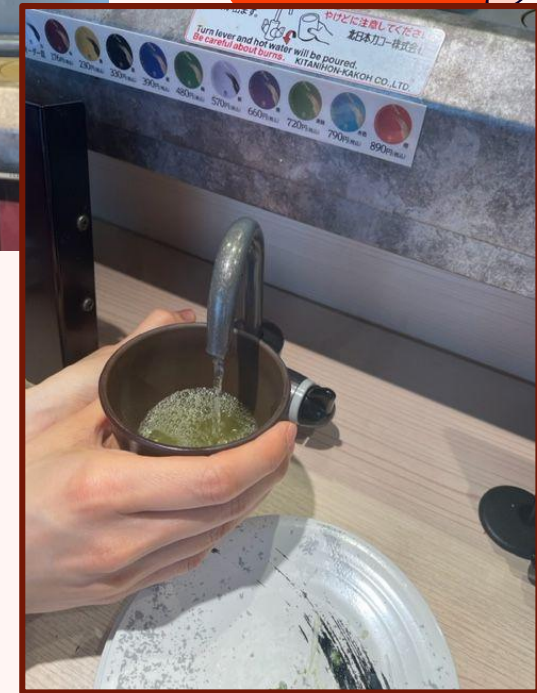
Ramen  
Chinese-style



Bento Box  
Lunch







Conveyor-Belt  
Sushi,  
Narita Airport



FRIENDS!







With Faith Stone, mokuhanga artist from Hawaii.





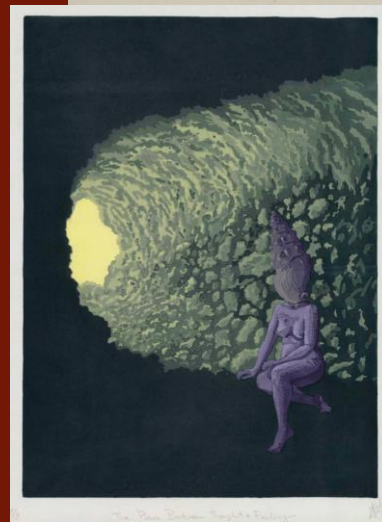






Barbra Kowalik, Poland

Nichol Markowitz, USA







Mara Cozzolino, Italy



Yuet Yean Teo, England





Airport Sushi with Miho Kobayashi, OFA 2008-2009







Miho and son with gifts brought from the Remington Art Museum.









Illustrator and mokuhangas artist Jennifer Mack-Watkins with Laura Foster.

